

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 29, No. 9 - Friday, May 6, 2005 - Brooks City-Base, TX

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Challenger Center lands Hubble telescope images

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Simulated space morphed into reality April 25 when the Brooks-based Challenger Center of San Antonio officially unveiled two deep space mural-sized images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. This Brooks Aerospace Foundation ceremony marked Hubble's 15th anniversary as an orbiting window to the universe.

The Challenger Center at Brooks is one of only seven centers worldwide that the Space Telescope Science Institute at John's Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., selected to receive the images.

Marveling at the images after their unveiling, retired astronaut John Blaha said, "The universe is an incredibly large place. If you launched a space vehicle from earth to the center of this galaxy (Milky Way) when (Jesus) Christ was born, you'd only be one-twelfth of the way there today. He explained that such an ambitious flight would need to be made at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second). At such a speed, he explained, it takes light two seconds to travel from the moon to the earth.



Retired astronaut John Blaha discusses the vastness of the galaxy, referencing one of two new murals unveiled at the Brooks-based Challenger Center. The center is one of just seven centers worldwide to receive the Hubble telescope images.

Blaha was joined by Bill Merrill, the center's lead flight director, and Alec-Robert Puente, a two-time Camp Challenger graduate who is a St. Anthony's School sixth grader, in unveiling the murals. The images will be permanently displayed in the facility's briefing room.

The horizontal 4-by-6 foot mural photograph of Whirlpool Galaxy M51, 31 million light years away (a light year equals about six trillion miles) in the Lost Dogs Constellation, reveals striking details of how star clusters are born in the galaxy's long, curving spiral arms.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita Schroeder

The vertical 3-by-6 foot mural photo image of Eagle Nebula M16, 9.5 light years or 57 trillion miles high, shows a gaseous landscape sculpted by ultraviolet light from a group of massive, hot young stars.

See Hubble telescope/4

Brooks observes National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By Elizabeth Castillo
Discovery writer

In honor of National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Brooks has numerous events planned throughout May in order to commemorate this year's theme "Liberty and freedom for all."

A kickoff ceremony will be held Wednesday at Sydney's at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will feature hula dancers, karate exhibitions, Asian Pacific fare and samples of Asian Pacific fashion. The entire Brooks community is invited to attend the kickoff event as well as the official proclamation held at City Hall May 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Beginning in June of 1977, the first 10 days of May were honored as Asian Pacific Heritage week. In 1990 the celebration was lengthened by President George H. W. Bush to last the whole month in order to honor two significant dates in Asian Pacific American History. On May 7, 1843 the first Japanese were immigrated to the United States, and May 10 marks the completion of the transcontinental railroad whose workers consisted highly of Chinese immigrants.

"It teaches to always stay true to your roots, never to forget where you come from. And we are glad that we can share our culture so that other people can enjoy it with us," said Airman 1st Class Mee Yang, a Brooks Asian Pacific American Heritage Month committee member.

Throughout the month, a weekly trivia question will be posted by the main entrances of Sydney's and the gym. Winners will receive prizes of Asian/Pacific related items to be given out every Friday. Sydney's is offering Asian Pacific food every Wednesday in May.

Wilford Hall team evacuates Alaskan infant

By Dewey Mitchell
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

A 10-month-old girl battling a severe case of pneumonia was flown 4,000 miles by Airmen from Wilford Hall Medical Center here April 28.

Carle David was hospitalized in Anchorage when officials requested help. The neonatal critical-care air transport medical team, which stays prepared to launch on short notice, left for Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska on April 26.

The Airmen placed Carle on an extra corporeal membrane oxygenator, a portable heart-lung bypass machine, April 27 and then moved her to Elmendorf. They arrived at San Antonio International Airport on

April 28 at about 2:30 a.m. Carle's mother and grandmother accompanied her on the 4,000-mile trip.

An ambulance took her to Wilford Hall where she is being monitored for several days before the medical staff can remove the lifesaving device. Children's lungs are often able to heal themselves as the stress is removed with the help of the machine, officials said.

Many medical centers worldwide use the oxygenator, but Wilford Hall has the only long-distance air transportable unit. Without this procedure, doctors said Carle's chances of survival were about 10 percent. Now, her chances have dramatically increased to 90 percent.



Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Silva

A medical team from Wilford Hall Medical Center moves 10-month-old Carle David and a 900-pound portable heart-lung bypass machine onto an ambulance at San Antonio International Airport.

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Air Force focuses on religious respect

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

One's religious beliefs, or the absence of beliefs in an established religion, should never be grounds for unlawful discrimination, the chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service said.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles C. Baldwin recently explained the role of chaplains and respect for others' beliefs throughout the Air Force.

"Our instructions include a code of ethics that requires chaplains to respect all faiths and work without judgment in a religiously pluralistic environment," he said. "We have no tolerance for religious discrimination."

The principle of respecting the religious views of others is nothing new for the Air Force or the military as a whole.

"We didn't just begin to value religious freedom and individual rights," Chaplain Baldwin said. "This is a central part of our rich American heritage and is embodied in the First Amendment to the Constitution. It has been re-enforced through the years with countless acts of courage and sacrifice both large and small."

Starting Spring 2004, Air Force Academy leaders said they noticed some religion-related concerns from the results of a climate survey given to permanent party staff and faculty. Subsequently, they conducted a cadet climate survey and found a similar trend. In turn, the leaders encouraged the academy community to highlight specific incidents involving religion.

Through these self-initiated efforts last year, academy officials discovered more than 30 percent of non-Christian students who took the survey said Christian cadets are given preferential treatment, while less than 10 percent of Christian students felt that way. A little more than half of non-Christian students who took the survey reported they "have not felt pressure to be involved in religion" at the academy.

"We make sure our training centers — the Air Force Academy, basic military training school at Lackland Air Force Base and the officer training school at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. — are staffed at 100 percent to meet the spiritual needs of our Airmen and that these chaplains understand and teach the concepts or religious accommodation and respect," Chaplain Baldwin said.

To re-enforce a learning and training environment that emphasizes the value of religious freedom and respect, academy officials instituted a new training program called Respecting the Spiritual Values of all People.

"The focus of the small-group seminars — each facilitated by a chaplain, a lawyer and a commander — is on the diversity of the Air Force and the need for each person to respect everyone else, regardless of their beliefs or faith," said Johnny Whitaker, Air Force Academy communications director.

"It is not about any particular religion or belief system, but ensuring that each Airman has the right to believe as he or she chooses," he said. "The program uses some stage-setting briefings, clips from popular movies and role-playing videos to convey the parameters of practicing one's religion and beliefs in a military setting." It also addresses the limits on government employee's practicing their religion in the work place.

The RSVP program prototype was redesigned into the current 50-minute seminars involving 35 to 50 people per session.

The training is mandatory for all of the nearly 9,000 people assigned to the academy, cadets and permanent party alike, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of May. RSVP is the first phase of planned, continuing respect training at the academy.

Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force, and senior Air Force leaders said they are confident the academy and the Air Force at large will continue to promote self-critique, self-inspection and self-improvement in all areas. Air Force and the academy leaders remain committed to fostering a respectful and spiritual environment.

"(Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff) and I stand ready to provide any assistance (Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa Jr., academy superintendent) needs, and will stay in close touch with him as the academy deals with this issue," Mr. Dominguez said.

"This program encourages people to confidently and authentically live out their own faith and belief commitments, and deeply respect others whose spiritual strength comes from a faith or source different from their own," he said. "Such mutual respect is essential to the culture of the Airman."

Military struggling with rising healthcare costs

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

Rising medical costs and the expansion of health benefits for retirees, guardsmen and reservists, and their families, are putting a strain on the military health-care system, Defense Department health and personnel officials told members of Congress on April 21.

"Rising health-care costs are not unique to the military health system; it's a national concern, and we are struggling with it," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

Rising costs can also be attributed to increased enrollment in Tricare benefit programs, said David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Improvements in Tricare benefits have made the health plan "widely accepted" by servicemembers, retirees and their families, Mr. Chu said.

And, "others seek to join this program," he said, referring to retirees older than age 65, who joined Tricare for Life, and reservists, who can begin enrolling in Tricare Reserve Select.

However, the popularity of Tricare programs has brought with it "substantial cost," Mr. Chu said.

Expenses for Tricare have grown rapidly, doubling over the past five years from \$18 billion to nearly \$36 billion in 2005, Dr. Winkenwerder said. If the current trend continues, the program's total budget could top \$50 billion within five years, he said.

By 2010, about "70 percent of the health budget will be spent caring for retirees," Dr. Winkenwerder said.

"The facts show that our expansion of health benefits, such as those for our senior retirees, underlies the

growth, and that growth could put today's operations and sustainment at risk," he said.

In addition, the expansion of health-care benefits to retirees has led to increased pharmacy costs. The cost of Tricare's pharmacy program has increased 500 percent since 2001, with costs approaching \$6 billion this year, Dr. Winkenwerder said.

Department officials are trying to control some of those costs by implementing "performance-based" budgets and improving Tricare's pharmacy program with a new formulary and using federal pricing for its retail pharmacy network, he said.

In addition, Tricare contracts are now designed to "leverage private-sector methods" to control purchased health-care costs, Dr. Winkenwerder said.

Still, management actions alone, even dramatic ones, "will not stem the rapid growth spending," he said.

"That is because benefit expansion and rising utilization are the driving forces in sending these costs upward," he said.

Part of Tricare's problem is the program's benefit structure has not kept pace with changes in the private sector or industry, Dr. Winkenwerder said. For example, enrollment fees and cost shares for Tricare have not increased in a decade, he said.

While Tricare cost shares have remained "unchanged" over the past five years, those for private health-care firms have risen significantly, Dr. Winkenwerder said. For instance, cost shares for Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic region rose 57 percent, and those for Blue Cross Standard rose 87 percent.

"This has persuaded a growing number of our beneficiaries to drop their private coverage and to fully rely upon Tricare," he said.



AFRL's centrifuge receives major overhaul

By Kendahl Johnson
Discovery editor

The Air Force Research Laboratory's centrifuge and its accompanying control room and viewing area recently received several major upgrades, both technical and aesthetic, enhancing one of Brooks City-Base's top research facilities and most popular stop for those touring the base's facilities.

Because the centrifuge had not been upgraded in so long – the most recent upgrade was long over due – leaders within AFRL felt it was time for a facelift. "The main driving force behind the upgrades is that this is probably the most visible facility at Brooks City-Base," said Dr. Paul Werchan, Chief of Acceleration Research. "Anybody that comes to Brooks on a tour will tour the centrifuge. We felt it was justified to take the time and spend the money required to do this makeover."

"There hadn't been a remodel since the mid-80s. It was long overdue," added Staff Sgt. Christienne Ruth, the NCO in charge of acceleration.

Many of the fanciest upgrades came in the control room. Previously, the flights were recorded on VHS. Now, everything is recorded on a computer hard drive and saved to a DVD. The console was upgraded and several flat screen monitors were added.

Also, Nathan Dillon, a contractor with AFRL, spearheaded the technical side of the upgrades, developed a computer program that would graph the flights – including current flying G-force and how long a pilot has been flying at a certain G-

force. This addition saves time and enhances research.

"Formerly, all that information was tracked manually by marker and paper," Sergeant Ruth said. "It was a complete pain. This is so much easier and more effective for us."

Not only is the information charted on the computer but it is also sent to a screen inside the centrifuge so the test subject or trainee can track his or her own progress. "We now have the ability to debrief the subject while they are sitting in the centrifuge, immediately following their flight," Sergeant Ruth said.

Because of the dignified visitors who visit the facility, an aesthetic upgrade became a necessity. Suzanne DeLaCruz, the acceleration research subject coordinator, became the primary decorator, supervising the painting of walls, the replacement of floors and other upgrades to enhance the area visually.

Master Sgt. Kevin Johnson was instrumental in the new look to the interior of the gondola with painting and upgrades to the upholstery.

Sergeant Ruth is very pleased with the new look of the facility and hopes it will help in attracting new research subjects. "We are always looking for research subjects," she said. "We have research subjects from all the San Antonio bases – Randolph, Lackland and Fort Sam. We try to keep a panel of about 50 research subjects."

Volunteers must be military and are compensated with hazardous duty pay. Anyone interested in becoming a research subject can contact Sergeant Ruth at 536-2577.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



TOP: The interior of the centrifuge's gondola received aesthetic upgrades, including new paint and upholstery. Research subjects can now track their progress during flight simulations and received a debriefing directly from inside the gondola.
BOTTOM: The control room for the centrifuge received state-of-the-art technical upgrades, including flat screen monitors and a computerized tracking system.



Hubble telescope photos

from page 1

"The Hubble has allowed scientists all over the world to learn what we don't know about the universe. We (still) don't know very much," Mr. Blaha said.

He said the Challenger Center at Brooks was selected to showcase these murals because the facility is a 'benchmark' or model for the nearly 50 centers worldwide to emulate. One of only four in Texas, the Challenger Center here has launched 50,000 students into simulated space during 1,200-plus missions since it opened in September 2000.

The murals enhance the Challenger Center's educational mission to stimulate student interest in science, math and engineering in hopes that they pursue future scientific or technological careers.

The images displayed there are two of the more than 22,000 celestial objects that the space telescope has taken since it was launched April 24, 1990 aboard the shuttle Discovery. Named after Edwin P. Hubble,

founder of modern cosmology, this unmanned space observatory is the first major infrared-optical ultraviolet telescope in earth orbit. The telescope's 94.5 inch-diameter mirror, weighing 1,800 pounds, has produced startling images of deep space. Free from the obscuring effects of earth's atmosphere, Hubble has photographed more than 700,000 images while traveling 2.3 billion miles in earth orbit. It has collected 23 terabytes of data, equal to the text content in 23 million novels. Since its journey, Hubble has been used by about 3,000 astronomers worldwide who have published more than 4,000 scientific papers based on data collected by this telescope. More importantly, Hubble has pioneered a revolution in optical astronomy despite a defect in its mirror that has since been corrected. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration predicts that Hubble will end its mission in 2010. It will be replaced by the James Webb space telescope in 2011.

Yard of the Month



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Mike Quinn of the Brooks Development Authority presents a check to Staff Sgt. Matthew Maddux and his wife. The couple won the award for having the best yard in base housing.



BROOKS BRIEFS

Brooks' Dining Out adapts 'Wingman Pride' theme

They've led the pack in major movies and stepped back to make sure their more acclaimed counterparts were held in the spotlight. That's why this year's Dining Out event is dedicated to the "Wingman."

From Tom Cruise's "Maverick" in '80s flick "Top Gun" to Chewbacca in Star Wars, these famous Wingmen set the standards on what it means to be loyal and true to the title.

Brooks City-Bases' Dining Out will be held May 13 in the Brooks Club from 6 to 10 p.m., with this year's theme being "Wingman Pride." Eight commanders chosen by Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis will represent famous wingmen and make their presentations to "The Grog" in an attempt to impress this year's panel of judges — General Travis, Col. Laura Alvarado and Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams.

In keeping with the fun feel that Dining Out strives for, this year's panel will characterize the three famous judges from "American Idol" with General Travis as Simon Cowell, Colonel Alvarado as Paula

Abdul and Chief Williams as Randy Jackson.

In addition to the presentations to the "Grog," the evening will be highlighted with dinner and a speech given by guest speaker ASC Lt. Gen. William Looney III.

"Crowd participation is important, we want everybody to have a good time," said Capt. Maureen Farrell, Madam Vice of Dining Out.

To purchase tickets for the event, contact Capt. Vince Navarro at 536-8215.

— Elizabeth Castillo

Brooks Fiesta golf tournament

Register now for the Brooks Fiesta Golf Tournament, which will be held at Pecan Valley Golf Club on May 23. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person, which includes cart, green fee and lunch. To register, call Ed Shannon at 536-5140 or 383-5597.

Shiftwork scheduling workshop

A Brooks-sponsored shiftwork scheduling workshop is scheduled for June 9 from 8 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit the Brooks website at www.brooks.af.mil.



A LOOK at BROOKS

Who will win the
NBA Champ-
ionships and
why?



Senior Master Sgt.
Mark Viera / AFMSA

The Spurs because they have a deep bench, and they are accustomed to working as a team as opposed to relying on one superstar to get it done.



1st Lt. Jeff Riegle
AFCEE

The Pistons because I'm from Michigan and the bad boys rock.



Frank Claudil
311th MSG

The Spurs because they are a very competitive team, and they've shown that they can take insults and still come back to win.



Eunice Q. Villanueva
311th MSG

The Spurs because the team has gotten in sync and they're determined to get it.



Tech Sgt. Adrienne McGill
311th HSW

The Heat because Shaq is the most dominant force in the paint!



BRIG. GEN. TOM TRAVIS
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

ACTION LINE

536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.**

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Mission Support Group —		Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Safety.....	536-2111	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366

May kicks off 101 Critical Days of Summer

By Elizabeth Castillo
Discovery writer

Summer is a time for fun, vacation, relaxation and sunny weather. But unfortunately, it is also the time of year when more off-duty related injuries and fatalities occur.

The "101 Critical Days of Summer" campaign was created in the early 1980's in response to the increasing numbers of fatalities occurring between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Last year, 77 Airmen died as a result of off-duty mishaps and 32 of those occurred during those 101 critical days.

"Our campaign efforts this year will be to increase personal awareness of risk and thereby reduce the number of mishaps and fatalities during the summer high risk period," said David Lemme, Chief of Safety.

The focus of 101 Critical Days of Summer is based upon Personal Risk Management. Its objective is to assist Brooks City-Base personnel identify potential risks for those off-duty activities where historically there are higher numbers of mishaps and injuries.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has established the DoD Safety Oversight Council in order to review safety practices DoD-wide and to reduce mishaps by 50 percent. Good planning and careful considerations of risks in activities could help to prevent possible accidents

and will help the Air Force to meet the mishap reduction goal set by Mr. Rumsfeld.

According to Mr. Lemme, the Safety Campaign at Brooks is asking Airmen to "ACT." Assess the activity, Consider the potential risks involved, and Take action to reduce or eliminate the hazard associated with the activity.

Effective PRM supports the "Wingman" concept whereas a good wingman would step in when a fellow wingman is about to do something irresponsible or something that has the potential of putting them in harms way.

"Our objective this year is to address behavioral modification; we are going to lean heavily or apply the majority of our emphasis on personal risk management," said Mr. Lemme. "We're not saying 'don't do it' but 'do it safely.'"

The key to remaining safe through these critical times is to adequately identify where risks are, determine the right amount of risk and act accordingly. Start planning trips early, and engage in all sports and activities with a "safety first" state of mind in order to protect yourself and those around you. With the exercise of good common sense, and careful planning, together Brooks personnel can reduce the risks of unnecessary mishaps and fatalities.

"We want everyone to enjoy the summer, but to enjoy it safely," Mr. Lemme said. "Weigh the risk before engaging in any activity and make this a year round effort."

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Mondays — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

SPONSOR TRAINING

May 10 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

May 13 — Noon - 3 p.m., Bldg. 537

Show appreciation for your spouse. This free event includes facials, manicures, haircuts and arts and crafts. There will be cooking demonstrations, food and door prizes. For the grand finale there will be a fashion show by Brooks personnel.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

May 18 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

FEDERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

May 26 — 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn the ins and outs of navigating the Federal Job system. Bring your most recent resume and vacancy announcements or job advertisements you have found. Bring a list of courses you have completed in any recent college or other educational program. This workshop also includes a briefing from Civilian Personnel office.

Call 536-2444 to register



Children to get fit with America's Kids Run

By Jan McMahon

311th Mission Support Group

The America's Kids Run Event will provide 20,000 children five to thirteen years of age an opportunity to participate in a fun run scheduled for 8:30 a.m. May 21 at the Fitness Center (Bldg. 940).

The 5- and 6-year-olds run one-half mile, the 7- and 8-year-olds run one mile and the 9- to 13-year-olds run two miles with a finish line reward of an America's Kids Run Tee Shirt and cheers of their proud parents.

The event offers an outstanding opportunity for children of military personnel to participate in a safe, interactive and fun event on bases as part of Armed Forces Day celebrations and May Fitness Month promotions.

America's Kids Run has a 19-year history of success, originating in Spokane, Washington

in 1986; 8,000 children in Spokane run the race in the second week of April each spring, in anticipation of an annual Adult Race, which attracts 50,000 runners in May. It has become a spring rite of passage for young children, teens, volunteers and parents.

"Children's obesity is at an epidemic state and our event helps provide children an innovative, fun and safe place to exercise, while providing an experience to enhance the self-esteem of the children who participate," said Mike Erwert, the executive director and event founder. "Our 19-year history has shown us that children who begin running as exercise at an early age continue with exercise as a life style choice through their elementary, middle and high school activities."

Military dependents worldwide now have an opportunity to join in the fun. Visit the website www.americaskidsrun.org for more information.

First Quarter Award Winners



A1C Allison Cardone
68th IOS
Airman of the Quarter



Tech Sgt. Matthew Patrick
USAFSAM
NCO of the Quarter



Master Sgt. Marcus Vigil
USAFSAM
SNCO of the Quarter



1st Lt. Jose Ramirez
Human Systems Group
CGO of the Quarter



A1C Daniel Herr
68th IOS
Honor Guard



Marbel Hernandez
Det. 5, AFRL
Student Aide



Hosea Talbert
311th Mission Support Group
GS 3 through 5



Judy Callier
311th Mission Support Group
GS 9 through 11



Elizabeth Macias
AFIOH
GS 12 and above



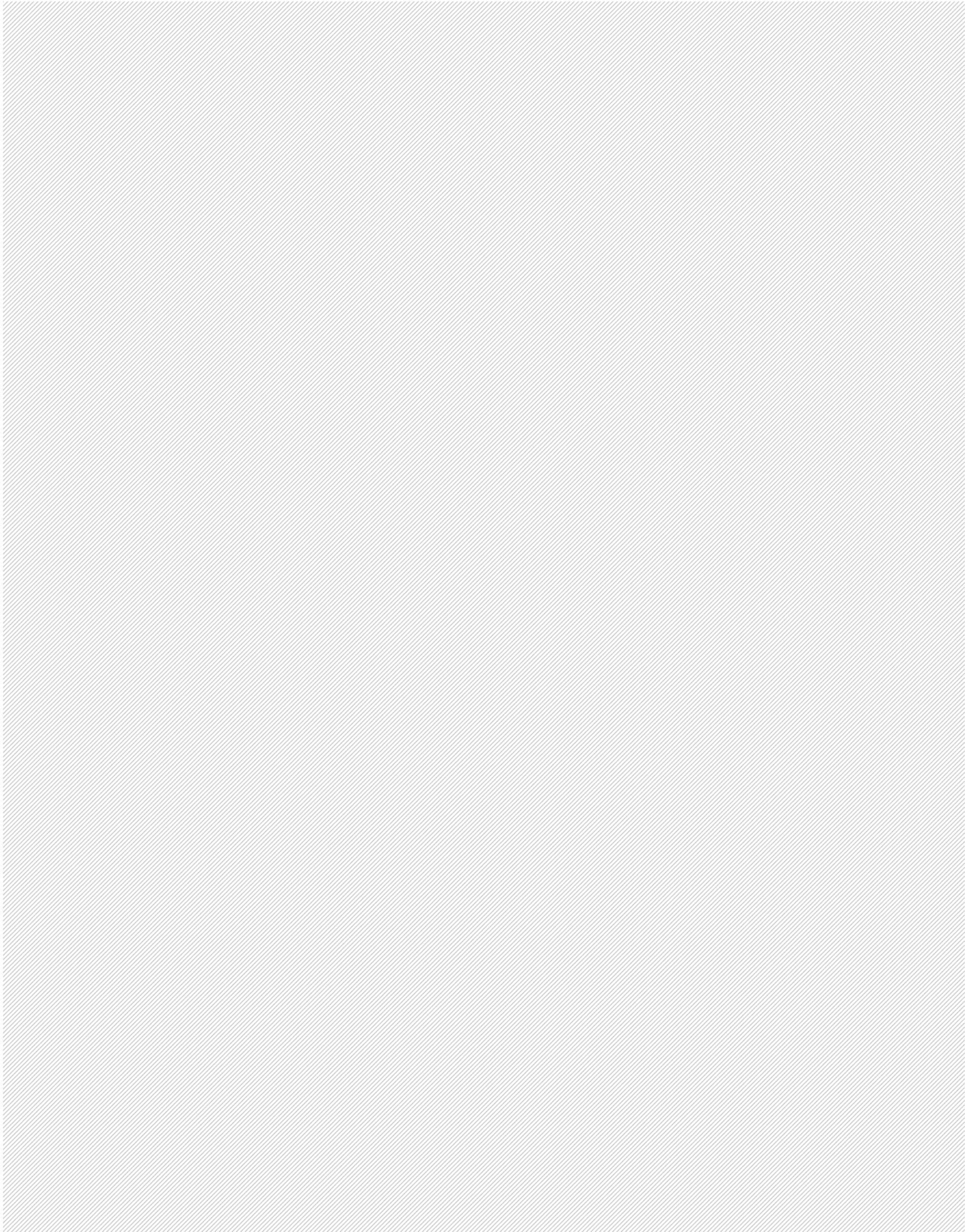
Esperanza Freeman
311th Mission Support Group
NAF Technician

Not Pictured

Erla Naumann
59th Medical Squadron
GS 6 through 8

Ray Maldonado
311th Mission Support Group
WG/WL/WS

Congratulations to all winners





Brooks joins Lackland in honoring retirees

By Wayne Bryant
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

For the first time, two military installations in San Antonio are combining their efforts to honor retired military members, their dependents and survivors residing in the surrounding area, as Lackland Air Force Base and Brooks City-Base are joining forces to honor military retirees throughout the week of May 16-20. In addition, a special Retiree Appreciation Fair is set from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 21 at Lackland's Mitchell Hall.

The efforts will recognize the dedication and significant contributions to our country of retired military members. The event will also publicize the Lackland and Brooks missions as well as the services the bases have available for the local retiree community.

"This is our opportunity to honor those in the San Antonio area who have served our nation," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Edna Tart, director of Lackland Retiree Activities Office. "We are pooling our resources with Brooks and opening our doors to a wider range of retired customers."

The Retiree Appreciation Day event will feature a variety of displays, health screenings and vendors of interest to retired military people. Retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Bob Gaylor, one of the Air Forces' most well known motivational speakers, will be the guest speaker May 21. In addition, Lackland's Commissary, Base Exchange and 37th Training Wing organizations will feature specials throughout the week of May 16-20.

At Brooks City-Base, retirees will receive:

- Half-price lunch at Sidney's, with club card

- A free car wash with retiree ID presented at the Outdoor Recreation office

- A \$10 retiree golf special, which includes golf cart, green fees and one range token

- Half-price dinner at the Boars Head Pub, Club 204, with club card.

"San Antonio's retired military population, of all branches, will find plenty of interesting information at our retiree fair and be offered many specials throughout this week," Chief Tart noted. "We hope to get hundreds of former military folks out to enjoy the week's specials, ask questions of experts and browse through the displays at Mitchell Hall."

The local commissary and Base Exchange will offer specials throughout the week as well aimed at their retired customers. Both agencies are also providing refreshments and door prizes during the Retiree Appreciation Day event.

In the most recent edition of the Retiree Affairs Newsletter, Col. Mary Kay Hertog, 37th TRW commander, praised the upcoming event saying, "We are going to partner with Brooks City Base... with activities focusing on health, benefits, and just providing information that may be new to many of our retirees."

"There will be activities occurring throughout the week of May 16-21, but you need to mark May 21 on your calendar. On that Saturday, we hope to have a variety of vendors and booths featuring health, legal and benefits information," the colonel added.

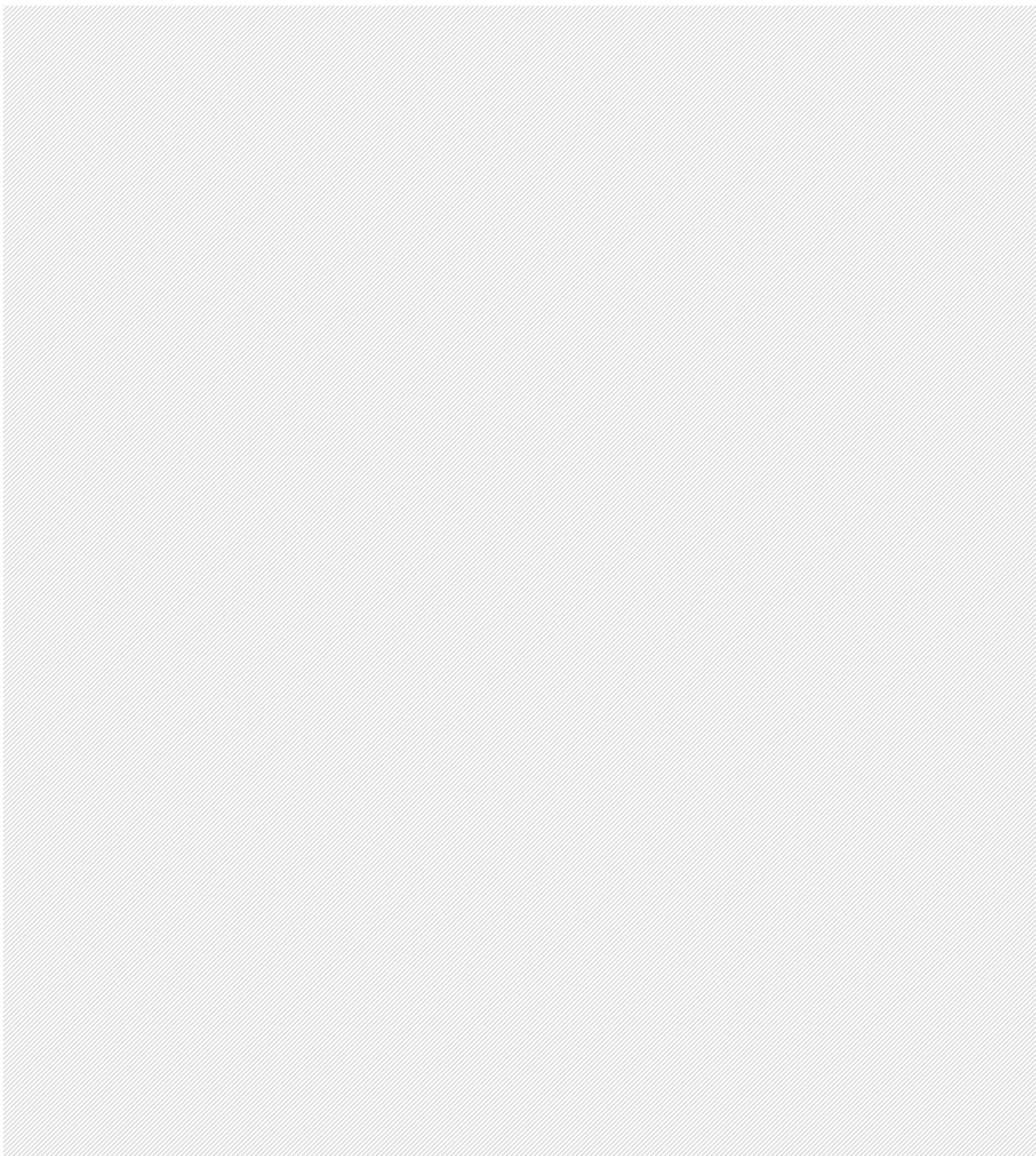
The list of all the specials and vendors available during the week are too numerous to list, but more information is available by calling the local Retiree Activities Offices 536-2116. Better yet, come out and join fellow retirees at a great event.

Congressman visits Brooks



Congressman Henry Cuellar visited Brooks City-Base Monday for a tour of the base missions. He said that Brooks is a terrific partner with the city. He said the Brooks City-Base model is efficient, is the "best in the country" and "needs to be duplicated." He also said that he is proud of the work being done at Brooks. "I want to thank the men and women at Brooks City-Base for everything they do," he said.

Photo by Kendahl Johnson



San Antonio



Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311 Human Systems Wing commander, exchanges gifts with King Antonio LXXII, Sam Bell Steves during the Brooks Fiesta Reception at Hangar 9.



Brooks Fiesta ambassador Staff Sgt. Angelica Broner from the Air Force Research Laboratory waves to the crowd during the Battle of Flowers parade, April 22.



Master Sgt. Vince Iapichino and Staff Sgt. Angelica Broner honor veterans by placing a floral bouquet at the Vietnam Memorial during a Fiesta event, April 24.



Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311 Human Systems Wing commander, and his wife Sally celebrate Fiesta San Antonio during the opening ceremony at Alamo Plaza, April 15.



Fiesta 2005



Col. Laura Alvarado, 311 Human Systems Wing vice commander, and CMSgt. Reggie Williams, 311 HSW Command Chief, participate in a silent procession from Municipal Auditorium to Alamo Plaza during the Fiesta Pilgrimage to the Alamo event.



Master Sgt. Vince Iapichino greets parade enthusiasts during the Fiesta Flambeau parade, the largest illuminated march in the nation. More than half a million street spectators are estimated to have watched the parade.

Sixteen Fiesta military ambassadors from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Army Reserve represented their services and bases during the 10-day Fiesta event, attending nearly 50 events around San Antonio.





Brooks golf team to compete in top military tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks golf team will compete in the Defense Department's version of the U.S. Open at the 41st Annual Military Invitational Tournament at Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla. May 10-13.

Military teams from throughout the world participate in this 72-hole, four-round, scratch play tournament that features some of the top military golfers on earth.

"This is bigger than the MAJCOM tourneys we use to play in the past. This is probably the most difficult tournament I've ever played in," said Tech. Sgt. James Barfield assigned to the 59th Medical Squadron at the Brooks Clinic.

Sergeant Barfield is the team captain for the Brooks squad that is composed of Lt. Col. Alan Pineault, 311th Human Systems Wing chaplain; Tech. Sgt. Jeff Mylar with 311th HSW and Tech. Sgt. Tom Ray with the 311th Communications Squadron. All four have previously played in this tournament, but not as a team.

Sergeant Barfield, who last played in this tourney in 2001, said the par-72 course is extremely difficult. "The playing conditions are difficult because they have built up the roughs and cut down the greens," he recalls. Competition eligibility requires participants to have an eight handicap or less.

"The competition is high-caliber. Scratch players participate as well as those who play below par," Sergeant Barfield noted. The Brooks team, however, fields a veteran squad that is anchored by a recent tournament champion. Chaplain Pineault recently won the Greater San Antonio Senior Men's Amateur Championship.

Brooks youth sports to host first MLB event

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Major League Baseball is coming to Brooks on Saturday when the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation and Brooks Youth Sports host the first MLB Pitch, Hit & Run program sponsored by Pepsi.

Youth athletes, ages 7-14, will compete in this event with a chance to advance to the National Finals at the 2005 MLB All-Star Game in Detroit, Mich. on July 17.

The program, originally known as "Hit, Pitch & Run" in the 1970s, was re-established after a hiatus as Diamond Skills in 1997. Pepsi renamed it again in 2001 when the company became the title sponsor for the program, designed to enhance youth skills in baseball.

"We've never done this before," said Larry Flores, Brooks Youth Sports director, whose passion for the game is reflected by his cell phone ringing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game."

The Brooks event marks the first round of the competition at the local level. Other stages of the competition include, in ascending order, the sectional level in mid-late May, team championship in June and National Finals in July. The top 16 youngsters will compete for the National Championship during All-Star Week at Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers.

Mr. Flores, who will serve as official scorer for the local event, said the competition is not limited to the 10 Brooks youth baseball teams. It's also open to youngsters from throughout Bexar County and surrounding metropolitan areas. Competition begins at 11 a.m. at the senior baseball field located along the old flight line directly across from the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence headquarters. No advance registration is required and the event is open to girls and boys.

Participants will compete in the following age groups: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. "Boys and girls will compete against one another," said Mr. Flores, referring to the program's rules.

Competition eligibility includes participants providing proof of age through either a valid birth certificate or baptismal record. They also must sign a registration/waiver form provided by the local event administrator. Additionally, the event prohibits the use of metal spikes.

Local competition will select an all-around champion, all-around runner-up, all-around third place winner, and pitching, hitting and running champions. Only the all-around champion and pitching, hitting and running champions advance to the sectional level competition.

The point scoring system is based on three criteria: a total of six pitches thrown to a designated "strike zone," three attempts to hit a pitched ball a minimum of 50 feet, and running from second base to home plate in no less than 11 seconds. For more information call Mr. Flores at 536-5968.

Annual Sports Day commences May 26

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Back by popular demand is the 14th sequel to the original squadron challenge called Brooks Sports Day scheduled for May 26.

Play begins with a 7 a.m. 5K Run at the fitness center and concludes at the end of the competition with a team tug of war near the base swimming pool.

This Brooks Fitness Center event was originally created to stimulate athletic competition here in support of Air Force Fitness Month in May. "We use to have it twice a year. This is the 15th year we've had it," said Roy Conatzer, event founder. He said the competition has not been held annually, but noted that interest in it has grown over the past few years.

The Air Force Institute for Operational Health is the two-time defending Sports Day champion.

They will compete against other units in this day-long 'field day' that features golf, racquetball, volleyball, tennis, 3 on 3 basketball, 4 on 4 flag football, 100 meter dash, 4x100 relay and one-pitch softball.

Two years ago the Brooks Sports Advisory Council added three more events: horseshoes, table tennis and 8-ball pool (billiards).

Teams must register with either the Fitness Center or through their unit sports representatives. For more information contact Sports Day coordinator Hosea Talbert at 536-2188.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

The tug of war is just one of several Sports Day events.

Intramural golf tees off this week

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

All the usual contenders are on hand for the 2005 Brooks intramural golf season that teed off Wednesday and will conclude with a postseason double elimination tournament scheduled this summer.

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine will attempt to repeat as base champions by fielding two teams. Led by first-year team captain for both squads, Maj. Richard Conte, USAFSAM returns veteran Lt. Col. Mike Van Valkenburg who together with former teammates Dave Miles, Jeff Mylar and Curt Nagle defeated the Air Force Research Laboratory for the base crown last year.

While Mylar and Nagle, former base varsity teammates, will not be playing for USAFSAM's intramural squads, Major Conte believes the teams have enough good golfers to be very competitive this year.

Besides Van Valkenburg, who is an 11 handicapper, USAFSAM will also field two 15 handicappers in Lupe Briseno and

Rusty Strawn and two 16 handicappers, Tech. Sgt. Jason Giles and Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Reid.

The 311th Services squad, defending league champs, has been greatly diminished by the loss of veterans Rudy Gonzalez and Rick Cone who will not play on the team this year.

"I think we'll be competitive, but we will not be as strong a team as we were last year," said Jose Valadez, team captain and a former base champion. Returning veterans from last year's league championship team include Jimmy Connell and Albert Merolli.

"We've got Albert. He's going to be our hero," Valadez predicted.

While he did not predict what team will win the league title, Mr. Valadez believes this year's contenders include the Air Force Institute for Operational Health led by Master Sgt. Aaron Sinclair, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence led by Boyce Marting and AFRL led Curtis Lawrence.

Other teams competing this year include the Human Systems Group, 68th Information Operations Squadron, 311th Mission Support Group and the Army.



Softball team goes 4-3 in Brooks tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks men's varsity softball team posted a 4-3 record in a softball tournament they hosted April 23-24 that helped them prepare for the upcoming Band Aid tournament at Little Rock AFB, Ark.

The city league civilian team San Antonio Shooters won the tournament, posting a 7-0 record in a field of nine squads.

"We hosted the tournament as a tune up for the Band Aid tournament that we compete in every year," said assistant coach and player Warren Bengé, referring to the annual competition primarily involving Air Force teams scheduled for May 18-20.

Brooks fielded a short-handed squad for their event which attracted military and civilian clubs from throughout San Antonio. Participants included the Air Force Personnel Center and Air Force Recruiting Service teams from Randolph AFB, the 651st

Munitions Squadron and 343rd Security Forces Squadron clubs from Lackland AFB and civilian teams such as the Brew Crew, Scrubs and Tornadoes.

In the preliminary round, Brooks defeated the Scrubs 26-12, lost to the San Antonio Shooters 16-6, defeated the Brew Crew 23-16 and beat the Air Force Personnel Center 20-13.

Brooks advanced to the double elimination round seeded fourth. They beat the Scrubs 15-14, but were eliminated from the tourney after a 10-run loss to the San Antonio Shooters and a heart-breaking 14-13 loss to Air Force Recruiting Service.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The Brooks varsity men's softball team discusses their game plan prior to a tournament they hosted April 23-24.